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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/520,763	01/10/2005	Brian H. Augustine	00798-04	5049
34444	7590	11/15/2007	EXAMINER	
UNIVERSITY OF VIRGINIA PATENT FOUNDATION			PENG, KUO LIANG	
250 WEST MAIN STREET, SUITE 300			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
CHARLOTTESVILLE, VA 22902			1796	
MAIL DATE		DELIVERY MODE		
11/15/2007		PAPER		

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)
	10/520,763	AUGUSTINE ET AL.
	Examiner	Art Unit
	Kuo-Liang Peng	1796

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 8/27/07 Response.
- 2a) This action is **FINAL**. 2b) This action is non-final.
- 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) Claim(s) 1-36 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) 6-15 and part of 20 is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) Claim(s) 16-18 and 21-36 is/are allowed.
- 6) Claim(s) 1-5 is/are rejected.
- 7) Claim(s) 1-5, 19, part of 20 is/are objected to.
- 8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.
 Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
 Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) All b) Some * c) None of:
 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
 Paper No(s)/Mail Date 4/29/05.
- 4) Interview Summary (PTO-413)
 Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.
- 5) Notice of Informal Patent Application
- 6) Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

1. Applicant's election of the invention of Group I (Claims 1-5, 16-19, part of Claim 20 and 21-36) in the response to restriction requirement filed August 27, 2007 is acknowledged. Because applicant did not distinctly and specifically point out the supposed errors in the restriction requirement, the election has been treated as an election without traverse (MPEP § 818.03(a)).

The requirement is still deemed proper and is therefore made FINAL.

Group II, Claims 6-15 and part of Claim 20 is withdrawn for further consideration.

Claim Objections

2. Claims 1-5 and 19-20 are objected to because of the following informalities:
In Claim 1 (line 5), should "monomer" be -- repeating subunit -- as indicated in Claim 21 because the formula does not contain "monomer" (i.e., unreacted) units?

In Claim 19 (line 1), should "or 18" be removed?

In Claim 20 (line 1), should "claim 6, 16, 18 or 19" be -- claim 6 or 16 --?

Appropriate correction is required.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

3. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

4. Claims 1-5 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Sammons (US 6 425 936).

Sammons discloses a gas-separation device containing **microchannels** formed by copolymerizing **POSS** monomer with an organic monomer. The **POSS** monomer can contain a **methacryloxy** group. (col. 2, lines 25-62, col. 14, lines 50-67, col. 32, lines 13-57 and col. 34, line 50 to col. 35, line 12) The organic monomer can be exemplified as **methyl methacrylate** (Example 6) and the relative amounts of the **POSS** monomer and organic monomer are also exemplified in Example 6. The **POSS** is the moiety that imparts the gas permeability. (col. 32, lines 13-57 and Example 6) As such, the path (microchannel) that gas molecules

travel through should contain mostly the POSS (i.e., coated with POSS containing polymer) Note that “**microfluidic device**” and “**in fluid communication**” are merely intended use.

5. Claims 19-20 would be allowable if rewritten to overcome the claim objection, set forth in this Office action and to include all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Allowable Subject Matter

6. Claims 16-18 and 21-36 are allowed.

7. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:
The present claims are allowable for at least the following reason(s) over the closest reference: Sammons

Sammons does not teach or fairly suggest a) the method of preparing a microfluidic device set forth in Claim 16; b) the hybrid microfluidic device set forth in Claim 21; and c) the microfluidic device set forth in Claim 28.

8. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Kuo-Liang Peng whose telephone number is (571) 272-1091. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday from 8:30 AM to 5:00 PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Jim Seidleck, can be reached on (571) 272-1078. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

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November 5, 2007



Kuo-Liang Peng
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 1796